

NORTH ATLANTIC LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE GRANT 2014 PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one)

2014 1st

2014 2nd

2014 3rd

2014 4th

Grant Number and Title: NALCC 2012-01 Extending Habitat Map into Canada

Grant Receipt/Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Project Leader: Dr. Mark Anderson

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Yes

NALCC Conservation Need Addressed: Supporting a Standardization of Terrestrial and Wetland Habitat Classification and Mapping that Includes Characterization of Climate Sensitive Systems.

Progress Achieved: (For each Goal/Objective, list Planned and Actual Accomplishments)

This quarter we hosted a face-to-face meeting in Fredericton to finalize the classification and began integrating all the datasets and testing the methods for mapping the individual habitats.

Summary of Progress: (Provide a paragraph describing progress, work to come, and timelines)

Goal 1) Finalize the Classification through a face-to-face meeting with Canadian Scientists.

We hosted a meeting in Fredericton New Brunswick for key ecologists working on the classification of terrestrial habitats for Maritime Canada. At the meeting we successfully worked our way through:

- 1) The potential systems already described and mapped for the US
- 2) New systems not found or described for the US

For the first group we reviewed the description presented in the (NEAFWA funded) Northeast Habitat Guide, discussed modification of the description needed for Canada, identified the geography where the habitat occurs, noted key indicator species that might be used to confirm the occurrences, and developed ideas on the ecological signature and crosswalk to the Forest Inventory data or CDC data.

For the second group we discussed the concept of the system and developed draft descriptions, then likewise identified the geography where the habitat occurs, noted key indicator species that might be used to confirm the occurrences, and developed ideas on the ecological signature and crosswalk to the Forest Inventory data or CDC data.

We successfully ended the workshop with a complete list of terrestrial habitat for the region and a lot of useful information to inform the mapping. After the meeting we compiled our notes in an excel table and sent it to the full steering committee for review and comment.

Goal 2) Begin integrating the Forest Inventory data with the other datasets and testing methods for mapping the individual habitats.

As described in our last progress report we have had huge success we had was in procuring the forest inventory datasets from all four Provinces (New Brunswick Forest Inventory, Nova Scotia Forest Inventory, Quebec FORGEN Forest inventory, Prince Edward Island enhanced land use – land cover). These are detailed

vegetation datasets contained geographically comprehensive information on individual forest stands as well as soils, wetlands, and other non-forest features. This quarter we processed each dataset so that they had similar attributes on species composition and stand characteristics (the Quebec attributes had to be translated into English). We began testing methods for mapping individual habitats through cross-walking their species composition and structure to the most likely habitat types and then using axillary data on geology, soils, geography, climate and landforms to identify the correct habitat. Our goal is to have several types mapped for our next steering committee call.

Goal 3) New – Participate in a workshop comparing the various habitat maps developed for the East.

We participated in a day long workshop hosted by Dave Diamond (UMISS) that aimed to compare the various maps developed by GAP, LANDFIRE, and TNC. This was a very instructive day for us, due to both the comparing of methods, and to the understanding of how these maps are perceived and used. The Northeast Terrestrial Habitat Map came out looking very good, except for the incomplete mapping of non-natural, ruderal vegetation types. A nice quote from the meeting was that the map was “cartographically appealing and ecologically logical” and also the best documented. We left the meeting with several good ideas that were pertinent to the Canada mapping project.

Difficulties Encountered:

None this quarter. This has been a productive quarter.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

Goals for the upcoming Quarter include:

The goals are getting very straight forward at this point as we go into the production phase of the map

- Using all data compiled, map the forest types and review them with the steering committee.
- Begin mapping the wetland and non-forest habitats.

Expected End Date:

January 31, 2015. Please note that we have requested a no-cost extension on the UMASS / USGS award to match the January 31, 2015 end date.

Costs:

Funds Expended Previous to this Report: 41,894.07

Amount of NALCC Funds Requested within this Report: \$ 21,643.06

Total Approved Budgeted NALCC Funds: \$95,238.00

Are you within the approved budget plan? Yes

Are you within approved budget categories? Yes

Signature:



Mark Anderson
Director of Conservation Science
The Nature Conservancy, Eastern Division

Date: July 30, 2014